

**Minutes
Township of Falls
Neighborhood Traffic Advisory Committee**

August 12, 2024

Members in Attendance:

Amy Gallagher
Ian James
Robert Leary
Ariane Presser

Members Absent:

Leon Thompson

Also in Attendance:

Sgt. Ray Fanelli, Township of Falls Police Department
Fallsington Resident Michael Davidson (Hillside Lane)

Sgt. Fanelli opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The minutes from the June 10, 2024 meeting were approved with no changes.

Mr. Michael Davidson spoke about the truck traffic increase on Tyburn Road due to the NorthPoint development. He would like to know how to divert these trucks. Sgt. Fanelli said it's very hard to alter truck traffic completely. Mr. Davidson said the road is in very poor condition. Speeding is another problem. The intersection at New Falls Road and Tyburn Road is a disaster too. Sgt. Fanelli said that stretch there is a 35-mph zone but then it goes to 55 mph and then weirdly it becomes a 45-mph zone. The problem becomes when you cross over into a new speed limit, you have to allow 500' for speed adjustment. The problem with ENRADD is that it's not good when you have more than one lane going in the same direction. It confuses the machine. In January, the police did 3 months of extra enforcement at New Falls and Tyburn Roads. They had officers sitting in the median. But as soon as the officers are not there, the problems start again. We had yard signs made up that the police were doing traffic enforcement up ahead. The thought was that if vehicles thought there was a police car ahead, they would be conditioned to drive slower.

Another complaint is cars that are merging to get onto Route 13 from Mill Creek. Some are stopping legally, but then 3 or 4 behind them are going around. The problem is where do we watch them from safely.

The township agrees that the trucks are a problem. We want to make sure they are in safe condition. Right now Sgt. Fanelli is a one person unit and each truck inspection could take hours. They not only do big trucks but smaller landscaping trucks too. Part of Tyburn's right lane just got repaved. There were terrible potholes. Mr. Davidson asked if he should ask his state

representative for help with PennDOT. Sgt. Fanelli said it can't hurt. PennDOT also has an online road condition reporting website. It is not hard to use, but you can only upload one picture. You then pinpoint the location of the complaint on a map. You will get a confirmation from PennDOT when you submit your complaint. Mr. Leary said you should try to go through New Falls and Tyburn Roads in a school bus.

The next item discussed was the complaint from Yvonne Marrazzo regarding speeding on Kirby Drive. Sgt. Fanelli put out the speed spy and did a one-day study. The results were the 85% speed was 2 mph over the limit and 44 cars. So he did a longer study of 2 days and the 85% was 1 mph over the limit and 144 cars. So there is not much of a problem here. He will be putting the speed trailer out there just so everyone can see their speed. He also told Ms. Marrazzo that they might come back after school starts when the traffic picks up.

Next the committee discussed the Woolston Drive sinkhole. On August 5 they started working on this sinkhole and it was finished the next day. Then Sgt. Fanelli emailed PennDOT's District 6 supervisor (Mr. Centofanti) to ask if Woolston can be put back on their resurfacing project list, but he hasn't heard back yet. He contacted Ms. Kerner to tell her, and she was happy. He did a speed enforcement detail using ENRADD there on August 3.

There is no update on new signs as Lt. Belinsky was not in attendance.

Sgt. Fanelli then discussed a complaint on the 600 block of S. Olds Boulevard regarding minibikes. Minibikes have a seat and handlebars, but no pedals. There is no definition in PA for minibikes. Sgt. Fanelli did speak to one of the riders and the driver, but the driver said he ditched the bike in the woods and when they went to get it, it was gone. Two days later, they get another complaint in that area. This time Sgt. Fanelli stopped a 14-year-old juvenile on a minibike. He told Sgt. Fanelli that there is a bunch of riders over by the Burger King. Another officer stops two more riders by the pool and the officer got a standing ovation from people in the pool. The residents are sick of the reckless operation of these minibikes. The drivers are switching out the engines on these minibikes. They become like a motorcycle, which normally would require a license, a helmet, a registration, insurance, etc. All the minibikes were taken, and all the juveniles were issued citations. They can all go to the Youth Aid Panel to avoid any traffic offenses, but there are still a lot of fines and court costs. Ms. Gallagher is on the Youth Aid Panel.

The complainant on S. Olds Blvd also complained about speeding vehicles. Sgt. Fanelli put the speed spy there and the 85% was 16 mph over the speed limit. The residents who complain always want speed bumps. Ms. Gallagher said they don't realize how horrible they are. Sgt. Fanelli said there are temporary speed bumps that can be removed. There are speed bumps at the park. Mr. Seeherman previously said we could put chicanes in the road. This would make the road appear smaller and that slows down speed.

Regarding the previous parking complaint at 16 Yardley Avenue, the resident was parking some of his work vehicles out front where there was a NO PARKING sign. He is disabled, but can drive, and some of his home health care workers were also parking out front. This was causing a problem with the school buses coming down the road. The NO PARKING sign was taken down,

and the police put it back up. They did several months of enforcement here, and it appears he is no longer parking there. If he is parked there, he comes right out and says he is just loading the running truck. So, they closed this complaint out.

Regarding the road markings at the charter school on Tyburn Road, the principal contacted Mr. Centofanti, from PennDOT, directly and he is working with them. Mr. Seeherman gave him the official PennDOT pamphlet, so Mr. Long knows all the sign lingo to discuss.

A neighbor complaint that just came in was regarding a car that's started at 4:30 a.m. every day and the engine is being revved loudly. This complaint came in through the website. This is more of a noise complaint. The midnight patrol officers will investigate this. Sgt. Fanelli is not exactly sure if there is an ordinance against this.

Mr. Leary mentioned that at the school on Olds Boulevard, several years ago, there was a cadaver SUV car that was parked up on the loop. That seemed to slow vehicles down. Sgt. Fanelli said every school has 2 officers assigned to the school as part of the ADOPT A COP program. They are supposed to stop in every day if they are not committed to something else. So even if a police vehicle is parked in front of the schools, that has a slowdown effect.

The other previous complaint was from Ms. Joan Graves in the Vermillion Hills section, regarding cars going through the stop signs. The suggestions were painting a stop bar, paint the word STOP, and put a red reflective strip down the pole. The projects were delayed a bit, but the Public Works Department is planning to complete this before the end of August.

Sgt. Fanelli's plan is to move the speed trailer around to the schools during the last week of August, to raise awareness of back-to-school season.

It was also discussed that perhaps Mr. Seeherman could look into a grant for a traffic calming solution on S. Olds Boulevard.

There was no other business, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.